

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. GCU-01-1
--	---------------------

**ORDER CANCELLING HEARING, SETTING BRIEFING SCHEDULE,
AND GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE**

(Issued February 15, 2002)

On October 15, 2001, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476A for a generating facility certificate to construct and operate a 540 MW combined-cycle, natural gas fueled, combustion turbine. The proposed facility is called the Greater Des Moines Energy Center and is located at 3200 S.E. 45th Street, Pleasant Hill, Polk County, Iowa. The Board docketed the filing and set a procedural schedule by order dated November 29, 2001.

There are three other parties to this proceeding: the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate), Interstate Power and Light Company f/k/a IES Utilities Inc. and Interstate Power Company (Interstate Power), and Hawkeye Generating, L.L.C. (Hawkeye). None of these parties have filed testimony or an objection to MidAmerican's request for a generating certificate. Pursuant to the procedural schedule, prefiled testimony was to be submitted on or before January 4, 2002.

On February 7, 2002, MidAmerican filed a motion for cancellation of the evidentiary hearing scheduled for February 20, 2002. In support of its motion, counsel for MidAmerican said he had contacted counsel for Consumer Advocate and Interstate Power and was authorized to state that those parties do not require an evidentiary hearing. Counsel for Hawkeye took no position on whether an evidentiary hearing was necessary.

After MidAmerican's motion was filed, CPV Highlands, L.L.C. (CPV), a power project development company, filed a petition to intervene. The February 13, 2002, petition stated that CPV did not intend to submit testimony or cross-examine witnesses. Counsel for the Board contacted counsel for CPV and confirmed that CPV had no objection to canceling the hearing.

It appears that none of the parties have questions for MidAmerican witnesses on cross-examination or witnesses of their own to present. MidAmerican responded to the Board's questions contained in its November 29, 2001, order. In siting cases, a major focus after the passage of House File 577 is the impact of the proposed facility on the reliability and operation of the existing transmission system in the region. The transmission study filed by MidAmerican, which has not been controverted, indicates that adding generation in greater Des Moines will in fact help ease transmission constraints in the area. According to other information filed, the proposed generation will also increase the amount of generation that can be independently restarted in the event of a widespread outage. After reviewing the transmission study and the responses to the Board's November 29, 2001, questions,

the Board has no additional questions on cross-examination for MidAmerican's witnesses.

Because no one has questions for the witnesses at hearing, the hearing will be cancelled. In the event any party desires to file a brief, a briefing schedule will be set. The Board will grant CPV's petition to intervene so that, if it desires, it may file briefs.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The motion to cancel evidentiary hearing filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on February 7, 2002, is granted, and the hearing scheduled for February 20, 2002, is cancelled.
2. The following briefing schedule is established for this proceeding:
 - a. All parties may file initial briefs on or before February 27, 2002.
 - b. All parties who filed initial briefs may file reply briefs on or before March 6, 2002.
3. The petition to intervene filed by CPV Highlands, L.L.C., on February 13, 2002, is granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Mayer
Executive Secretary, Assistant to

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 15th day of February, 2002.